GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2314
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
UPLINKING OF FOREIGN NEWS CHANNELS
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to allow wholly-owned or partly-owned foreign channels to enter the news television segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such TV network have applied for permission to uplink from India for its news channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e) Applications have been received from wholly owned foreign companies for India-focussed 24 Hour News Channels to be uplinked from India. This has necessitated a re-look at the existing policy, which permits uplinking of channels from India irrespective of ownership, equity structure or management control, which is aimed at Indian viewership. Necessary consultations have been held with various Ministries and the matter is proposed to be taken to the cabinet for consideration, shortly.